

# VDFP LOGBOOK

Virginia Department of Fire Programs Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 4

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## From the Executive Director

I hope this issue of our VDFP Logbook finds all of you healthy and safe as we enter the popular vacation season across Virginia and the nation. Safety, health, and wellness are important buzz-words that are used in our daily conversations within the fire service and the increased attention to these topics has recently become more apparent.

As we enter the hottest season of the year, it is important for all of us to remember to be aware of your physical limitations in severe heat, both on-duty and off. We should look for signs and symptoms of heat stress, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. That said, we all have to focus on lowering the firefighter death rate which continues to climb for 2005 as we go to print with this issue.

The National Fire Protection Association cites more than 78,000 firefighter injuries annually. Firefighter injury and death rates have remained relatively constant over the past several years, despite monumental improvements in technology and equipment. In a given year, about half the line-of-duty deaths are from heart-related illnesses. Another 25% are from accidents including motor-vehicle accidents.

Our annual Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service held on June 4, 2005 was attended by one of the largest crowds in the history of the event. This year we honored four fallen firefighters and we had the pleasure of hearing a keynote address by Fire Chief Bill Killen, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. Chief Killen spoke about the national Firefighter Safety Stand-Down.

The Stand-down initiative, led by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, called for firefighters on all shifts to put aside routine duties like alarm inspections and building maintenance for one shift. Fire departments still answered all emergency calls, but when there were no emergency calls, firefighters concentrated their efforts on being healthier and safer on and off the job.

It was extremely important for us at VDFP to join our many fire service customers across the Commonwealth by participating in the Firefighter Safety Stand-Down day. As the state fire service agency for Virginia, we recognize the value in promoting safety internally and externally as we deliver training, public education, and operational support to your localities.

Our statewide training continues to increase in all of our divisions, and the fall 2005 season promises to offer some great opportunities for you, such as the return of a Virginia fire service tradition in South Boston, with the offering of Training Expo 2005. Of course, all of our other annual regional schools will be available this year as well.

The e-mail addresses for all VDFP staff changed on June 6, 2005 to <first name. last name @vdfp.virginia.gov> and please visit our website at [www.vafire.com](http://www.vafire.com), for the latest updates on fire and emergency services news, training, events and VDFP programs.  
Be Safe,



Aubrey W. "Buddy" Hyde, Jr.  
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July 2005

## VIRGINIA HONORS FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS



(Photo on Left)

**Chief Robert Erb of the Namozine Fire Department and grandson, father and son of fallen firefighter Robert Erb, Jr., accepts a State Flag from VDFP Executive Director Buddy Hyde, William Killen, and Honor Guard Member at the 2005 Virginia Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service.**

On Saturday June 4, 2005, The Virginia Department of Fire Programs hosted the 2005 Virginia Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service at the Richmond Raceway Complex Horticultural Garden and Pavilion Building.

This annual service honored four men who died as a result of protecting the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia: Firefighter Robert Erb, Jr. of Petersburg Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services and Namozine Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department, Firefighter Jean Nuckols of Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Fire & Emergency Services and Whaleyville Volunteer Fire Department, Firefighter Arnold Stoneman of Norfolk Fire-Rescue, and Captain Steven M. Rosenfeld of Salem Volunteer Fire Department.

"We at VDFP are truly humbled to have been entrusted with honoring the memory of these four men who exemplify courage, bravery and selfless sacrifice," said VDFP Executive Director Aubrey "Buddy" Hyde, Jr. "Given that these men gave their lives to the Fire Service, it is a privilege to come together to honor their commitment and dedication to the Commonwealth."

This year's service, which marks the 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that Virginia fallen firefighters have been honored, featured a keynote address from William D. Killen, vocal selections from the St. Bridget's School Intermediate Choir and St. Michael's Catholic Church Archangel Choir, and presentation of colors by the Virginia Fire Service Honor Guard.

The families of the deceased firefighters were also presented with flags that had been flown over the State Capital in honor of each of the fallen firefighters. "You just don't know how much this means to us," said Chief Robert Erb, the father of fallen firefighter Robert Erb, Jr.. "The entire memorial service, the prayers, and the flags, were just beautiful. We truly appreciate everything that was done today."



**Crossed Aerials raise a United States flag in honor of Virginia Fallen firefighters.**

# VDFP FYI

## SAFETY/TRAINING TIP

### Apparatus Awareness

**Give apparatus a wide berth.** The number of injuries and deaths associated with apparatus during training is increasing at a dangerous rate.

Retrieving tools, pulling hose, and working around apparatus is obviously necessary during training. However, it is important to develop procedures that ensure the safety of students and instructors. Follow these safety suggestions when training with apparatus.

1. Make a habit of approaching apparatus from a position that can be seen by the apparatus operator.
2. Make sure students are visible at all times.
3. Take step 2 further by making sure the apparatus operator acknowledges students.

## PUBLIC EDUCATION TIP

### SOME TYPES OF FIRE RELATED HAZARDS PRESENT DURING AND AFTER A SUMMER STORM

- Lightning associated with thunderstorms generates a variety of fire hazards. The power of lightning's electrical charge and intense heat can electrocute on contact, splitting trees and causing fires.
- Pools of water and even appliances can be electrically charged.
- Appliances that have been exposed to water can short and become a fire hazard.
- Generators are often used during power outages. Generators that are not properly used and maintained can be very hazardous.
- In the event of a power outage, use flashlights not candles.

## ... FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS

*(continued from page 2)*

The culminating act of the memorial service was a moving rendition of "Amazing Grace," performed on bagpipes. Like the "Tolling of the Bell" ceremony, the bagpipes rang out as an audible testament to four firefighters that gave their lives in the service of others. In the poignant words of Executive Director Hyde, each of these fallen firefighters lived "a life worthwhile."

### Did You Know?

In 2003, 21.2% of all fires in Virginia occurred during the Summer months of June, July and August, resulting in 162 injuries and over \$38 million dollars in property loss.

\* Statistical information reported to the Virginia Fire Incident Reporting System (VFIRS)



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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**July**

Supplier Diversity Fair  
July 12, 2005  
Holiday Inn Central  
Richmond, Virginia

2005 Virginia State Fire Instructor College  
July 15 - 17, 2005  
Roanoke College - Salem, VA

General Aviation for Structural Firefighter- Pilot Class  
July 30-31, 2005  
Franklin, VA

**August**

Virginia Fire and Life safety Coalition Annual Conference  
August 3-7, 2005  
Williamsburg, VA

119th State Firefighter's Convention  
August 17-20, 2005  
Hampton, Virginia

VFSB Meeting  
August 19-20, 2005  
Hampton, VA

General Aviation for Structural Firefighter - Pilot Class  
August 27-28, 2005  
Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport

**August cont'd**

2nd Annual Virginia Public Safety Volunteer Summit  
August 27-28, 2005  
Charlottesville, VA

2005 Virginia Weekend at NFA  
August 27-28, 2005  
Emmitsburg, MD

**Did You Know?**

Virginia Commonwealth University - L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs offers a Public Safety Institute.

The Public Safety Institute at Virginia Commonwealth University is an advanced education and training program designed to enhance the leadership and management skills of public safety professionals by engaging and preparing them for the demands of being effective leaders in the continually changing public safety environment. For more information visit **[www.vafire.com](http://www.vafire.com)**.